

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-19 and 29-47 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 29 being the independent claims. Claims 20-28 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Allowed Subject Matter***

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-19 and 29-47 are allowable over the prior art of record.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 20-23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,996 to Iijima *et al.* ("Iijima") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,758 to Mermelstein *et al.* ("Mermelstein"). The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of Mermelstein and further in view of U.S. patent No. 6,104,992 to Gao *et al.* ("Gao"). By virtue of the foregoing amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 20-26, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 27 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By virtue of the foregoing amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 27 and 28, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Applicant has cancelled claims 20-28 merely to expedite issuance of the allowed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to continue the prosecution of the cancelled claims. Thus the cancellation of these claims should not be construed as acquiescence to the Examiner's rejections/objections.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11/20/06

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